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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/798,619	03/10/2004	Zachary W. Lyon	40009-0002	6179

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EXAMINER

CEGIELNIK, URSZULA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3711

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/798,619

Applicant(s)

LYON, ZACHARY W.

Examiner

Urszula M. Cegielnik

Art Unit

3711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 3711

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 5 recites "flexible tabs on said vibratory member reconfigured to snap fit between inner and outer rings of said socket". It is not clear whether applicant is intending to structurally claim the inner and outer rings or not.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

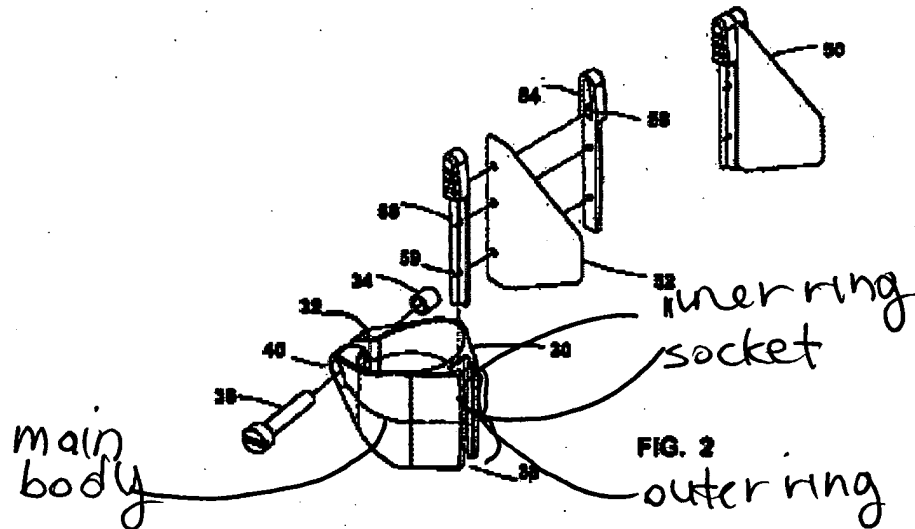
The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Coleman (US Patent Publication No. 2004/0116045).

Art Unit: 3711



Coleman discloses a vibratory member (52) configured to be vibrated by the spokes of a rotating wheel; and a main body supporting the vibratory member (52) on the vehicle, the main body further comprising an identity plate (54,56); the identity plate (54,56) comprising one or more panels (paragraph 0041, lines 8-9) bearing identification indicia or decorative elements (paragraph 0056), the panels being selectively and releasably attached to the main body (*the panels are attached via reference parts 54,56, which is removable via sliding into portion encompassed by reference part 30 while reference part 38 {main body} stays attached to the vehicle frame, see Figure 2*) such that the identification indicia or decorative elements on the vehicle can be changed by replaced a panel attached to the main body without removing the main body from the vehicle (paragraph 0042, lines 26-29); the vibratory member (52) snaps into a socket (30) on the main body (38) (via grooves of flapper mount assembly 50 and raises within the channel of the mounting clamp enclosure 38); the socket (30) having an inner (the inner portion of reference part 30) and outer rings (the outer portion of reference part 30) of the socket; the vibratory member is configured to snap into

Art Unit: 3711

the socket at any of a variety of angles with respect to the main body so as to accommodate differently sized bicycles (paragraph 0055).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 3, and 7-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coleman (US Patent Publication No. 2004/0116045).

Coleman discloses the claimed invention except for the identity plate bearing graphics in the form of identification numbers; flexible tabs on the vibratory member; the splits being tapered, narrowing toward the base and a corner of one or more of the portions being rounded, the fastening arrangement being a zip tie threaded through holes in the vibration element; notches disposed around a periphery of the socket for receiving tabs disposed around a periphery of the vibratory member, the notches corresponding to the variety of angles (paragraph 0042, lines 11-16 and 29-32)

With regards to the splits being tapered, narrowing toward the base and a corner of more or more of the portions being rounded, Coleman discloses that the vibration element may be in any geometric or non-geometric shape (paragraph 0056) as well as showing a configuration of a flapper with split configuration in Figure 5A.

Art Unit: 3711

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the splits as being tapered, narrowing toward the base and the corner of one or more portions as being rounded, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

With respect to the zip tie fastening element, Coleman recites that a variety of other fastening means may be used such as ties, snaps, buckles as well as screws to secure the flapper mount assembly in the enclosure 38 (paragraph 0042, lines 29-32). Coleman further shows apertures in the flapper mount assembly to be used with the above recited fasteners (Figures 2 and 5A).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a zip tie with an associated aperture, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

With regards to flexible tabs on the vibratory member, Coleman teaches a variety of fastening mechanisms for assembling the vibratory member to the bicycle (paragraph 0041, lines 9-12).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide tabs on the vibratory member as taught by Coleman, since such a modification would provide an alternate means of attaching the vibratory member to the bicycle.

Art Unit: 3711

With regards to the notches disposed around a periphery of the socket for receiving tabs disposed around a periphery of the vibratory member and the notches corresponding to the variety of angles, Coleman discloses that the flapper assembly may be mounted to the socket in a variety of ways (paragraph 0042, lines 11-16 and 29-32).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the claimed features as taught by Coleman, since such a modification would provide an alternate manner of attaching flappers to the bicycle.

With regards to the identity plate bearing identification numbers, Coleman discloses the claimed invention except for the specific arrangement and/or content of indicia (printed matter) set forth in the claim(s). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide indicia in the form of numbers since it would only depend on the intended use of the assembly and the desired information to be displayed. Further, it has been held that when the claimed printed matter is not functionally related to the substrate it will not distinguish the invention from the prior art in terms of patentability. In re Gulack 217 USPQ 401, (CAFC 1983). The fact that the content of the printed matter placed on the substrate may render the device more convenient by providing an individual with a specific type of graphics does not alter the functional relationship. Mere support by the substrate for the printed matter is not the kind of functional relationship necessary for patentability. Thus, there is no novel and unobvious functional relationship between the printed

Art Unit: 3711

matter e.g. indicia having numbers and the substrate e.g. identity plate which is required for patentability.

With regard to the limitation of the stickers or labels being a sheet, the examiner takes Official Notice that stickers or labels are present in a sheet format when printing them using a printer actuated by a computer.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Urszula M. Cegielnik whose telephone number is 571-272-4420. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 5:45AM-2:15PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eugene L. Kim can be reached on 571-272-4463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3711

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Urszula M. Cegielnik
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 3711



EUGENE KIM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER